

Websites:

<http://www.responsivemanagement.com/hunting.php#top>

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/LicenseInfo/LicenseIndex.htm>

[http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/Future Hunting Shooting Report.pdf](http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/Future_Hunting_Shooting_Report.pdf)

Factors Related to Hunting and Fishing Participation Among the Nation's Youth
Phase V: Final Report
Responsive Management, 2003

INTRO:

The future of hunting and fishing in the US ultimately depends upon the commitment of future generations to these traditional fish and wildlife activities.. The key to active participation in and commitment to hunting and fishing by future generations is fostering this commitment and participation among today's youth.

Research clearly indicates that active participation in hunting and fishing as an adult is directly relation to active participation as a youth.....Those that start later in life and who hunt/fishless often when young are more likely to cease HF altogether as adults. Children's exposure to HF is critical to their participation as adults.

Key Points:

Youth appear to relate to the natural environment in different ways thru predictable stages of cognitive development.

Youth's motivations for, satisfactions with and reason for HF appear to changes as they progress thru these stages of development.

Incentives for participation in sports/activities include desire to have fun, to improve skills, to do something I'm good at and to demonstrate competence at an activity and feel excitement for it

Reasons for desertion include feeling that they are not good at the activity or that training is too *difficult*; inability to learn new skills, perceived failure at activity.

Most popular outdoor activities among youth are biking, camping, visiting state/national Park, watching wild animals/birds

An overwhelming majority of youth have a high or medium interest in wildlife

A majority (56%) of youth agree that hunting wild animals for food is OK

Research suggests that the strongest influence on youth knowledge of and attitudes toward wildlife is knowledge gained thru direct contact w/ various animals; indirect instruction (slide, photos, and video) is not as effective

Very few youth see/hear info at school that helps them learn more about hunting or increases their interest in going hunting. Slightly more, but still not a majority, are seeing/hearing info outside of school that helps them learn more or increases their interest in going hunting

When youth do hear things about hunting at school, they hearing good things and their perceptions are that their teachers support hunting

Just under a quarter of youth in 2003 had gone hunting at some time; while 15% had hunted in the previous yr. youth participation in hunting is positively related to being male, to having a family member who hunts, to having also been fishing, and to living in a rural area or spending time in rural areas.

Youth typically had a mentor who had a positive influence on their hunting interest/experiences.

The top 3 reasons that would encourage youth to go hunting pertained to being asked by a father, family member or friend.

Implications and Recommendations

Participation rates in fishing steadily declined w/ age: 17% of 16/17 yr olds fished, compared to only 8% 65 yrs and older.

Same pattern is true for hunting; as age increased, participation decreased.

There is a pronounced demographic shift w/ increase in the % of households that are urban and decrease in % that are rural. Participation in hunting is lowest among urban/suburban residents.

Trends for available time to go H or F: lack of time one of the most important constraints

Hunting/fishing recruitment and retention programs should not be built exclusively around existing agency paradigms. Most Dept. personnel are highly oriented toward scientific and ecological approaches to education and HF promotion. Research, however, shows that naturalistic, humanistic and moralistic approaches, which may be denigrated by dept personnel, more be more appropriate for youth.

Youth said the #1 reason parents do not let them go hunting is parents did not consider hunting safe. Younger youth express more interest in attending hunter safety classes than older youth.

Today's youth overwhelmingly support fishing and feel that anglers respect living things; and is perceived by adults and youth alike as being a safe recreational activity.

The most important tenet of hunting recruitment is that hunting initiation takes place within the context of the family: hunting families produce hunters and most hunters are initiated into hunting when kids. 92% of all youth who had hunted in the previous year came from a hunting family. Successful hunting initiation programs will build on this fact. Programs that foster hunting initiation within the context of the family will be the most successful.

Mentoring is very important; those influenced by somebody positively had higher measure of hunting avidity and satisfaction.

Successful retention programs may have a more substantial positive effect of the numbers of hunters than recruitment programs.

Traditional management programs such as harvest, wildlife management and trophy hunting are not as important to youth satisfaction as are social and other factors like being w/ friends and family or having fun.....Youth hunting programs should focus on emphasizing fun and family aspects 1st.